

spiritual adult

DISCIPLE ME

TRACK 1: DISCOVERING YOUR GIFTS

USING WHAT YOU HAVE

ICEBREAKER: DINGLEHOPPERS & DESTINY

There is a scene in *Disney's The Little Mermaid* where Ariel explores the human world, collecting treasures from shipwrecks. She stumbles across this strange little metal object with prongs on the end. She has no category for it. No frame of reference. So, she gives it a name: *dinglehopper*.

And in her world, it's not ordinary. It's mysterious. Magical. Fascinating. She even believes it's a hair-styling tool. But to us? It's just a fork. It sits in a drawer. We barely think about it. We use it without noticing it. There's nothing glamorous about it. Nothing rare. Nothing impressive. And yet - remove every fork from your house for a week. Suddenly, it matters.



- What's one everyday object you use constantly that you would absolutely panic over if it disappeared tomorrow?
- Why do you think we tend to overlook things that are ordinary but actually essential?

STUDY: WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

There is a tension many Christians feel: they often believe that if God is going to use someone, it must be the naturally gifted. The charismatic. The confident. The spiritually impressive. We assume we need something *extra* - a special talent, a dramatic calling, a platform, a title. We quietly believe that if we just had *that* gift, *that* personality, *that* opportunity... then God could really use us.

But that's not how the Bible consistently talks about gifts. Over and over again, Scripture shows us something different: God doesn't start with what you wish you had. He starts with what's already in your hand.

Before the New Testament ever lists spiritual gifts... before Paul talks about prophecy, teaching, leadership, mercy, and service... there's a moment in the wilderness where God reframes the whole conversation. Moses is called to lead Israel - and instead of stepping forward in confidence, he steps back in doubt. He wonders, "*What if they don't believe me?*" He assumes he needs something more. God doesn't give him a new personality. He doesn't hand him a better resume. He doesn't upgrade his skill set. He asks a question. So, let's read it together.

READ Exodus 4:1-17

- What does Moses' response reveal about where his focus is?
- What does God's repeated response to Moses teach us about how He views our limitations?
- At what point does hesitation become resistance - and how can you tell the difference in your own life?
- If God asked you today, *"What is that in your hand?"* what would you need to release or trust Him with so He could use it to impact someone else?

Before we talk any more about gifts, influence, or impact, we need to slow down. Because God doesn't just hand out assignments - He shapes people. Moses had a staff in his hand, but long before that staff became a sign of power, God had been forming Moses in obscurity. The wilderness wasn't wasted. It was shaping.

If we rush to "What's my gift?" without asking "How is God forming me?" we miss something essential. So, before we move forward, we're going to pause and remember who we are. We are not the Potter. We are the clay.

READ Jeremiah 18:1-6

- What stands out about the relationship between the potter and the clay?
- Have you ever experienced a season where God was reshaping something in you? What did that process feel like?

ACTIVITY: CANVAS & THE CLAY

Let's shift gears for a few minutes. Instead of talking, we're just going to listen. Find a way to listen to the song, **"Canvas and Clay"** by Pat Barrett, together. Before listening, find the lyrics to the song, and follow along as you listen. Notice what words or phrases stand out to you.

- What word or lyric stood out to you, and why do you think it caught your attention?
- Where do you sense God shaping or stretching you right now - even if it feels uncomfortable?

CHALLENGE: ALREADY EQUIPPED

This week, ask the person you trust the most what your three greatest strengths or gifts are. Write them down, and then find a way to use those gifts to bless someone else. You could use all three gifts to bless one person, or use each gift to bless different people. Whatever you choose, come back next week, ready to share about how God was able to use what you already have to make a difference in someone else's world.